

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed January 17, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-7, 10-14 and 16-27 were last presented for examination. Claims 23, 24 and 27 were rejected and claims 25 and 26 were objected to in the outstanding Office Action. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 25 and 27 have been canceled and claim 23 has been amended. No Claims have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-7, 10-14 and 16-24, and 26 will be pending in this application. Of these twenty-two (22) claims, four (4) claims (claims 1, 14, 19 and 23) are independent.

2. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

3. Applicants acknowledge receipt of form PTO-892 identifying additional references made of record by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-7, 10-14, 16-22 and 25-26 are allowable.

Claim Rejections

5. Independent claim 23 and dependent claim 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,351,827 to Co, *et al.* (hereinafter, "Co"). in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,316,988 to Forehand, *et al.* (hereinafter, "Forehand"). Also, independent claim 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Forehand in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0249913 to Kaufman JR. (hereinafter, "Kaufman"). Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

6. Claim 27 has been canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.
7. Claim 23 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 25. Claim 23, as amended, includes the recitations of a claim that was objected to (claim 25), its base claim (claim 23) and all intervening claims (none). As such, claim 23, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

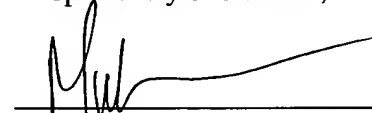
Dependent Claims

8. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them a fortiori and independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

9. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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